Agenda Item No. 5.0

Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning

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MEMORANDUM

To: MPO Policy Committee

From: Dolores Dowdle
Deputy Executive Director, Finance and Administration

Date: January 3, 2013

Re: FY 2014 UWP Process

Unified Work Program (UWP) federal funding is available for transportation planning projects within a metropolitan area. The Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) has the primary responsibility for preparing the UWP for its metropolitan area. The federal guidelines state that all planning and implementing agencies must be an integral part of the planning process and participate in the development of the UWP.

In the CMAP region, the UWP Committee serves as the project selection body for this process. The committee is chaired by IDOT, who votes in case of a tie. The membership is comprised of a representative from each of the transit service boards (CTA, Metra and Pace), the City of Chicago, RTA, CMAP, a representative from the counties, and a mayor representing the Council of Mayors. In addition, non-voting members are representatives from Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), Federal Transit Administration (FTA), and Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (IEPA). The UWP Committee establishes program priorities and selects core and competitive proposals. Final selections are approved by the Transportation Committee and then forwarded to the Regional Coordinating Committee, CMAP Board and the MPO Policy Committee for approval.

The UWP priorities followed for the last two years align with the regional priorities described in the GO TO 2040 Plan. While the UWP committee will review these approved priorities in the FY 2014 process, it is not anticipated that any changes will be necessary to them until the update of the GO TO 2040 plan in 2015. The approved priorities are:

- *Modernization of the Public Transit System.* GO TO 2040 recommends an enhanced focus on prioritizing planning work for the modernization of the existing transit system. Actions include work on coordinating services and fares, including pursuit of a universal fare payment system, work on traveler information systems,

and technological improvements including transit signal priority and ART. Project proposals, especially from the transit agencies, should feature these elements as a primary component.

- *Financial Planning Including Innovative Financing Strategies*. GO TO 2040 also stresses an array of recommendations related to transportation finance, including improved financial planning. Actions include strengthening transit financial oversight, planning for efficiencies that reduce transit operating costs, the identification of funding sources for CREATE, and continued planning/policy work on other important issues of fiscal policy to improve the transportation system.
- *Improving Decision-Making Models and Evaluation Criteria for Project Selection.* GO TO 2040 also emphasizes improving decision-making processes for transportation projects, as well as the overarching importance of prioritization for making investments given constrained funding. This includes constructing improved models for answering the most pressing questions about major projects and designing appropriate and regionally-vetted evaluation criteria for judging projects.
- *Planning Work Toward Implementation of* GO TO 2040 *Major Capital Projects, Including Supportive Land Use.* The continuation of near-term work to further GO TO 2040's short list of fiscally constrained major capital projects is also a high priority. Potential work includes planning for the inclusion of transit components as part of major highway projects, advancing recommended transit projects through the New Starts program or other discretionary funding programs, and planning for supportive land use around transportation, including active technical assistance to local governments.
- *Local Technical Assistance and the Formation of Collaborative Planning Efforts.* A major emphasis area of GO TO 2040 is providing targeted technical assistance to local governments, information sharing, and formal planning efforts that focus on transportation and other interconnected issues of livability.

The process for the FY 2013 UWP was revised with the intent to improve its efficiency and effectiveness. The UWP Committee, at its October 11 meeting, approved the FY 2014 UWP process based on the same format:

- The Call for Projects will be made in January and will include both the Core and the Competitive proposals. The Core and the Competitive proposals will be considered separately by the Committee.
- CMAP staff will conduct an in-depth proposal review and develop a proposed program for the UWP Committee's consideration. The review and recommendation process would be as follows:
    - <u>Proposal Selection – Core.</u> CMAP staff will review the Core proposals and make a proposed program recommendation to the UWP Committee for approval. The proposal review will consider the following: federal requirements; alignment with the proposed priorities in GO TO 2040; the requested level of funding; and if applicable, previous years' expenditure level of Core projects.

- Proposal Selection – Competitive. The Competitive proposals will be scored by the UWP Committee as in years past, based upon the alignment with the regional priorities listed above. Based on the available monies after the Core proposals have been funded, CMAP staff will incorporate the Committee's rankings and make a proposed program recommendation to the UWP Committee that follows the same considerations outlined above in the Core program.

The apportionment of federal funds for FY 14 has been estimated for the regional at $12,398,644 of FHWA Planning (PL) funds and $4,438,609 of FTA funds, for a total of $16,837,253. The FY 2013 UWP allocated $10,591,398 of PL funds, $4,256,336 of FTA funds, and $2,499,000 of unallocated FY 12 PL funds, for a total of $17,346,734.

The revised schedule for the development and approval of the FY 2014 UWP process would be as follows:

DEVELOPMENT OF PROGRAM PRIORITIES AND SELECTION PROCESS	
UWP Meeting	October 11, 2012
CALL FOR PROPOSALS	
Call for Proposals	January 3, 2013
All Proposals Due (Core and Competitive)	January 31, 2013
CORE ELEMENTS SELECTION PROCESS	
CMAP review and recommend program	February 14, 2013
UWP Meeting- Adopt Core Program	February 21, 2013
COMPETITIVE ELEMENTS SELECTION PROCESS	
UWP Meeting - Presentation of Competitive Proposals	February 28, 2013
UWP Committee members rank proposals	Due to CMAP March 8, 2013
CMAP prepares committee ranked proposals with funding allocation	March 15, 2013
UWP Meeting - Adopt Competitive Program	March 21, 2013
COMMITTEE APPROVAL	
Transportation Committee considers approval of FY 2014 UWP to MPO Policy Committee	April 26, 2013
Regional Coordinating Committee considers approval of FY 2014 UWP to CMAP Board	May or June 2013
CMAP Board considers approval of proposed FY 2014 UWP	June 12, 2013
MPO Policy Committee considers approval of proposed FY 2014 UWP	June 13, 2013
UWP Document Released	June 2012

ACTION REQUESTED: Informational

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